

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 CEQ-01 EPA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2204

USNATO FOR: DAVID SWARTZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECE, CSCE, PFOR, UR, SENV, ETRN, ENRG
SUBJECT: ECE - SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

REF: A) GENEVA 1143; B) GENEVA 2203

1. REFTEL B REPORTED VIEWS OF ECE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CHESTNOY (USSR) ON ROLE OF ECE IN HOLDING OF SUBJECT CONGRESSES.
2. WITH REGARD TO OTHER ASPECTS OF CONGRESSES PROPOSAL,
CHESTNOY SUGGESTED IN MEETING WITH MISSION OFFICER MARCH 16
THAT COMMISSION MIGHT DECIDE IN PRINCIPLE TO HOLD HIGH
LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, WITH SENIOR ADVISERS ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (AND POSSIBLY OTHER CONCERNED ECE
PRINCIPAL SUGSIDIARY BODIES) BEING REQUESTED TO STUDY MATTER
AND REPORT BACK TO 33RD SESSION IN 1978. HE SAID THAT IF
WESTERN COUNTRIES WANTED FASTER ACTION FOR SAKE OF NORWEGIAN
AIR POLLUTION PROPOSAL (WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ONE OF TOPICS
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FOR SUCH MEETING) OR BECAUSE THEY WISHED TO AVOID
RECURRENT DISCUSSION OF MATTER IN PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY
BODIES, AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS COULD BE SET UP TO CONSIDER
MATTER. IF AGREEMENT WERE REACHED AT 32ND SESSION ON
SPECIFIC TOPICS, AD HOC GROUPS OF EXPERTS COULD PERHAPS
DO PREPARATORY WORK. (SAEP WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL
FEBRUARY 1978.) SO FAR AS SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED, HOWEVER,

CHESTNOY ASSERTED, THERE WAS " NO HURRY."

3. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED CONGRESSES ON TRANSPORT AND ENERGY, CHESTNOY SUGGESTED CONCERNED ECE PRINCIPAL SUBIDIARY BODIES MIGHT BE REQUESTED TO CONSIDER NEED FOR SUCH HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE.

4. CHESTNOY SAID HE THOUGHT ROLE OF BELGRADE MEETING ON THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE TO ENDORSE REPORT OF ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON ACTION TAKEN AND TO CALL ON ECE AT ITS 33RD SESSION TO CONTINUE WORK IN LINE INDICATED.

5. COMMENT: WHILE CHESTNOY'S STATEMENTS DO NOT DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THOSE REPORTED REFTEL A, THEY ARE MORE UN-EQUIVOCAL AND APPEAR TO CONFIRM OTHER INDICATIONS THAT SOVIETS REALIZE THAT NO AGREEMENT RE HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS IN TRANSPORT AND ENERGY FIELDS IS POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME AND THAT THEY ARE FOCUSING THEIR EFFORTS ON ENVIRONMENT. HIS STATEMENT THAT SOVIETS ARE IN "NO HURRY" IS ALSO INTERESTING AND WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE FURTHER THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN PAYING HIGH PRICE FOR AGREEMENT ON THEIR PROPOSAL EITHER AT ECE 32ND SESSION OR BELGRADE BUT WILL SETTLE FOR RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF SATISFACTION. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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